

Newport

Summer 2002

Contact Us

Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

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(765) 492-4445

Outreach Office Hours

Monday–Friday
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Other hours by appointment

Army plans to accelerate agent disposal in Newport

At a public meeting in Newport on May 21, 2002, the Army announced its plans to accelerate destruction of the VX nerve agent stored at Newport Chemical Depot. With the accelerated process, the chemical agent will be destroyed nearly two years ahead of the original schedule.

“After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, we began evaluating additional methods to reduce public risk associated with chemical stockpile storage including methods to accelerate stockpile destruction,” said Terry Arthur, Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Public Affairs Officer.

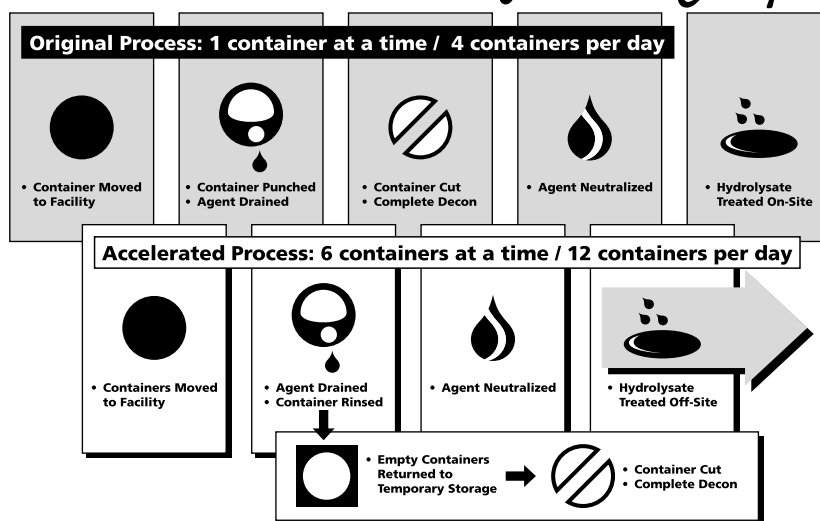
The Army worked closely with officials and regulators from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to determine the most effective way to accelerate stockpile destruction in a manner that is safe and protective of the environment. State regulators and officials, as well as their federal counterparts, approved the accelerated plans. In addition, the plans were briefed to the Indiana Citizens’ Advisory Commission and local officials.

Accelerating destruction involves the same neutralization technology and much of the same equipment approved for use in the original Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. The accelerated plan simplifies the original process and reorders its sequence by neutralizing the VX agent first using sodium hydroxide, disposing of the neutralized byproduct (hydrolysate), and cleaning and disposing of the empty steel containers afterward. Many of the functions that would have been completed with remotely operated robotic equipment will now be done manually through a glove box system. The Army has safely used this glove box equipment for agent handling for more than 10 years.

Approximately 60 local residents attended the public information session for a briefing on the Army’s recent announcement. “Our primary focus will be on the neutralization of the agent. When the agent is destroyed, the risk to the public no longer exists,” said Kevin Flamm, project manager for alternative technologies and approaches.

Earlier this year, the Army announced that it is accelerating destruction of the mustard agent stored in Maryland at Edgewood Chemical Activity. Under Maryland’s accelerated plan, which was approved by the state’s regulators and elected officials, the chemical agent will be destroyed two years ahead of the original schedule. The Army continues to investigate viable and safe technologies to accelerate destruction at the other sites where chemical agent and weapons are stored.

Process Comparison



Lt. Col. Marquart, a native of Smethport, Pa., brings an extensive background in chemical weapons and military service to the depot.

Maj. Christopher Isaacson, former Newport Chemical Depot commander, is now assigned to the U.S. Army Chemical School with duty at Army headquarters at the Pentagon.

Lt. Col. Marquart takes command

On May 29, 2002, Lt. Col. Joseph F. Marquart became Newport Chemical Depot's 37th Commander, replacing Maj. Christopher Isaacson, who now is assigned to the U.S. Army Chemical School with duty at Army headquarters at the Pentagon.

As commander, Lt. Col. Marquart is responsible for ensuring that the chemical agent stockpile is stored safely and securely while the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization prepares to destroy the stockpile and, ultimately, dismantles the former chemical agent production facility at Newport. The commander also is responsible for preparing the depot for future closure.

Lt. Col. Marquart, a native of Smethport, Pa., brings an extensive background in chemical weapons and military service to the depot.

Prior to taking command, Marquart was assigned to the Army's Soldier and Biological Chemical Command in preparation for his current assignment. Marquart's former assignments include Chemical Staff Action Officer for the Department of the Army



Photos by Susan Gilman

Lt. Col. Joseph Marquart, left, receives the Newport Chemical Depot flag from Maj. Gen. John Doesburg, Commander, U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (center) symbolizing his acceptance of the Newport Chemical Depot command. Maj. Christopher Isaacson, right, looks on as he passes on his command.



Maj. Christopher Isaacson, outgoing Commander, at right, accepts an award from Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, honoring his outstanding service as Newport Chemical Depot Commander.

and, subsequently, Assistant Executive Officer for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. From 1998 to 2001, his duties included Military Social Aide to former President Bill Clinton. He also served as Assistant Executive Officer and Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

Lt. Col. Marquart also served in Germany in many capacities including Nuclear Weapons Liaison Officer, Chemical Detachment Commander, Chemical Officer and Commander of NATO Logistics and Support.

In 1985, Marquart earned his bachelor's degree in business management from Gannon University in Erie, Pa. Following graduation, he completed the chemical officer basic course and, in 1996, graduated from the Army's Command and General Staff College.

Fiori oversees chemical weapons disposal program



Dr. Mario Fiori, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment

Dr. Mario Fiori, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, recently was named to oversee the Army's chemical weapons disposal program. Previously, Fiori's office shared program responsibility with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition,

Logistics and Technology. Now, responsibility for all program aspects—oversight, execution, environmental stewardship, safety, occupational health and emergency preparedness—is consolidated under Fiori's leadership.

"I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with all interested parties to ensure the safe destruction of America's stored chemical weapons. We will work in partnership with the community to achieve our

shared goal of eliminating these weapons safely," said Fiori.

Fiori, who President George W. Bush appointed Assistant Secretary, has an extensive military career and background in environmental programs and safety performance. Prior to his appointment, he was founder and president of a consulting firm specializing in enhanced operational safety programs. He also worked for the U.S. Department of Energy, serving on the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. He also managed the department's Savannah River project in South Carolina, which conducts advanced research on nuclear waste management and clean up.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Fiori also holds master's degrees in mechanical and nuclear engineering, and a doctorate in nuclear engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During his naval career, he served in the nuclear submarine force on various attack subs including the USS Pargo, USS George Washington Carver and USS Spadefish.

"I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with all interested parties to ensure the safe destruction of America's stored chemical weapons."

—Dr. Mario Fiori, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment

CAC welcomes newest member

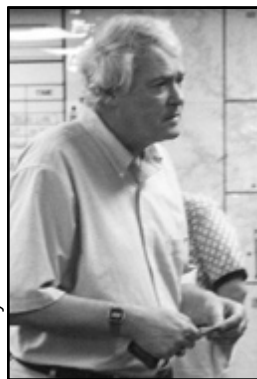


Photo by Sharon Smith

Dr. Dennis Lewis, newest member of the Indiana Citizens' Advisory Commission at the May 15, 2002, meeting.

Dr. Dennis A. Lewis is the newest member of the Indiana Citizens' Advisory Commission. He brings to the CAC an extensive background in chemistry, chemical and biological warfare research and military service. Currently, Dr. Lewis is a chemistry professor at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. He also served as head of Rose-Hulman's chemistry department from 1983 to 1995.

Dr. Lewis received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Saint Peter's College and his doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Connecticut. He also is a Commandant's List Graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

In addition, from 1982 to 1992, he served as executive officer and project officer of the 476th

Military Intelligence Detachment (Strategic) in Indianapolis, Ind. During this time, six of his major intelligence studies in the areas of chemical and biological warfare and defense were published at the national level. He has briefed scientists, intelligence analysts and high-ranking military personnel at various agencies and installations including the National Ground Intelligence Center, U.S. Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center, the National Air Intelligence Center and the Chemical Warfare Branch of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

He retired from the Army Reserve in July 1992 at the rank of lieutenant colonel, Chemical Corps.

The commission is made up of nine members appointed by the governor of Indiana. Seven are from the Newport area and two are state officials with technical expertise. The purpose of this organization is to provide a link between the local community and the Army. The members do not make program decisions but provide guidance and recommendations to the Army. The commission provides a local perspective to the Army so that it may manage the chemical agent disposal program in the community's best interest.

Lewis brings to the CAC an extensive background in chemistry, chemical and biological warfare research and military service.

We want to hear from you

The Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office serves as a clearinghouse of information about the chemical weapons stockpile stored at Newport Chemical Depot and the Army's plans for its disposal. The outreach office has informational materials that can address your questions or concerns.

If you would like more information about the Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, please telephone (765) 492-4445 or complete this form and mail it to:

Newport Chemical Stockpile
Outreach Office
140 South Main Street
Newport, IN 47966

Would you like to be added to our mailing list?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like an information packet mailed to you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered yes to either of these questions, please complete the following:

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone (optional) _____
E-mail (optional) _____

The outreach office schedules speaking presentations that can be given to large or small community groups, clubs, organizations, etc. If you know of a community group that might be interested, please complete the following:

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone (optional) _____
E-mail (optional) _____

